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I heartily congratulate the 30 Olympic athletes, competing in 10 games, representing Malaysia. I am sure they will deliver excellent performances in the Olympics and fascinate viewers around the world.

I am confident that the Malaysian athletes will win gold medals and that Negaraku will be played in the arenas of the Olympics to honour them.

My wholehearted support also goes to the Malaysian athletes participating in the Paralympics that will start in Aug 24 in Japan.

Overcoming their challenges, the performance of the Malaysian Paralympic athletes will be sure to equally move many spectators around the world.

The Olympic Games Tokyo 2020 also tries to showcase innovative technologies, digital and green, that can contribute to a better future. 5G technologies will bring live images of the games, such as sailing, conducted in the distant areas closer to the viewers as if they are being played right next to you.

The 3D tracking system depicts the movement of players and trajectories of the balls in real time. This technology will not only entertain viewers, but can also cause dramatic changes in players' training.

The Tokyo Games also aim at "green Olympics" concept. Hydrogen vehicles with lifetime zero CO2 emissions will drive around the venue. The Olympic medals are made of metals taken from used home appliances such as mobile phones, and the podium is made from recycled plastic.

The worldwide attention on the Games will be an opportunity for us to remember the precious bonds of friendship that unite the world. In the wake of the Great East Japan Earthquake in 2011, it was the emergent supply of liquefied natural gas from Malaysia that kept the lights on in the households of disaster-stricken areas.


The venues of the Tokyo Olympic Games include previously affected Fukushima and Miyagi, so that we can show to the world how much we have recovered and reconstructed, and to convey how deeply touched we have been by the kindness and sympathy embodied by the assistance Japan has received from all over the world.

There has been a strong bond cultivated in sports between Japan and Malaysia. The Japanese badminton team, including Kento Momota, would not have reached world- class standards without the dedicated support of the Malaysian coaches.


The Olympics have facilitated grassroots exchanges, including the training camps hosted by some cities in Japan to help the Malaysian Olympic athletes acclimatise to Japan.

I sincerely hope that the Tokyo Games will be remembered by Malaysians for the great performances of the Malaysian athletes and also as an occasion to strengthen the solidarity to work together to overcome Covid-19 and advance the long-running friendship between Japan and Malaysia.


Japan supports Prime Minister Tan Sri Muhyiddin Yassin's emphasis on the need for fair and affordable access to vaccines for everyone to




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overcome Covid-19.

From that perspective, Japan hosted the "Covax Summit" on June 2 to raise more than US\$8.3 billion to secure vaccines for the people in the developing world.



The Olympic Rings are displayed before the Rainbow bridge in Tokyo on July 22, 2021, ahead of the Tokyo 2020 Olympic Games. (Photo by Toshifumi KITAMURA / AFP)

Japan also pledged US\$800 million, bringing its total contribution to US\$1 billion, for Covax and 30 million doses of made-in-Japan vaccines. On this basis, Japan donated around one million doses of Japanese-made AstraZeneca (AZ) vaccine to Malaysia on July 1.

This donation contributed to the announcement by Covid-19 National Immunisation Programme Coordinating Minister Khairy Jamaluddin to the effect that the AZ vaccination interval would be shortened. I was so pleased to see many Malaysians tweet cheers at the notification of their vaccination appointments soon after the donation.

Japan's cooperation is not limited to vaccines, but includes cold chain facilities to ensure delivery of vaccines to the last mile and advanced medical equipment to help strengthen Malaysia's health systems.

Japan will work together with Malaysia to build a better future, true to the motto of the Olympics.

Innovative green technologies are being developed through cooperation between Malaysia and Japan, which is the third largest source of foreign direct investment for Malaysia.

Such green cooperation includes production of hydrogen by utilising abundant water and natural gas resources in Malaysia and promotion of technologies that simultaneously enable waste treatment and power generation in Malaysia.

The Olympics are the festival for young people all over the world.

In Malaysia, next year marks the 40th anniversary of its Look East Policy.

About 30,000 promising young Malaysians have studied or got trained in Japan for the past 40 years, and they are now at the forefront of Malaysian society.

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Building on the very success of the policy for human resource development, the University of Tsukuba, a leading Japanese state university which has produced three Nobel Prize winners, is now planning to establish an overseas branch school in Malaysia in 2023.

As next year also coincides with the 65th anniversary of Japan-Malaysia diplomatic relations, a great opportunity to enhance our strategic partnership is right in front of us.

I look forward to welcoming the Malaysian Olympic heroes and heroines back from Tokyo 2020 with big applause.

"Malaysia Boleh!" "Ganbatte!"

The writer is the ambassador of Japan to Malaysia

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